

**OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS  
RENDERED BY THE INTER-  
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

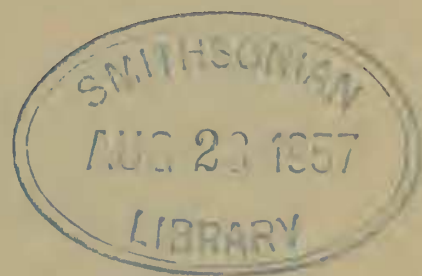
*Edited by*

**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**  
Secretary to the Commission

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**OPINION 471**

Validation under the Plenary Powers of the family-  
group name MAYAITIDAE Spath (L.F.), 1928 (Class  
Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea)



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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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*Arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election, as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology*

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Professor Enrico TORTONESE (*Museo di Storia Naturale, "G. Doria," Genova, Italy*) (16th December 1954)

## OPINION 471

### VALIDATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF THE FAMILY-GROUP NAME "MAYAITIDAE" SPATH (L.F.), 1928 (CLASS CEPHALOPODA, ORDER AMMONOIDEA)

**RULING** :—(1) It is hereby directed under the Plenary Powers that the family-group name MAYAITIDAE Spath (L.F.), 1928 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea) is not to be rejected in favour of the family-group name GRAYICERATIDAE Spath (L.F.), 1925 on grounds of priority by any worker who on taxonomic grounds may consider that the type genera of these nominal family-group taxa should be united in a single family-group taxon.

(2) The under-mentioned family-group name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 177 :—

MAYAITIDAE Spath (L.F.), 1928, as protected under the Plenary Powers in (1) from rejection in favour of the family-group name GRAYICERATIDAE Spath (L.F.), 1925 (type genus : *Mayaites* Spath (L.F.), 1924)

(3) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1189 :—

*Mayaites* Spath (L.F.), 1924 (gender : masculine) (type species by original designation : *Ammonites maya* Sowerby (J. de C.), 1840)

(4) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1293 :—

*maya* Sowerby (J. de C.), 1840, as published in the combination *Ammonites maya* (specific name of type species of *Mayaites* Spath (L.F.), 1924).

## I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 30th March 1955, Dr. W. J. Arkell (*Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge University, Cambridge*) submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature the following application asking for the use of the Plenary Powers to protect the family-group name MAYAITIDAE Spath (L.F.), 1928 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea) from the risk of being sunk as a junior subjective synonym of the family-group name GRAYICERATIDAE Spath (L.F.), 1925, by any worker who on taxonomic grounds might take the view that the type genera of these nominal family-group taxa should be united in a single family-group taxon :—

**Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to validate and protect the family-group name “MAVAITIDAE” Spath (L.F.), 1928 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea)**

By W. J. ARKELL, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.  
(*Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge University, Cambridge*)

The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission to use its Plenary Powers to preserve the family-group name MAYAITIDAE Spath (L.F.), 1928, in order to avoid the confusion and uncertainty that would result if, under the operation of the normal provisions of the *Règles*, this name were to be replaced by the family-group name GRAYICERATIDAE Spath, 1925 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea). The facts are set out below.

2. In 1923 (*Quart. J. geol. Soc. London*, 79 : 306) Spath founded a genus *Grayiceras*, for the “group of *Simbirskites nepalensis* Gray sp. and *S. mexicanus* Burckhardt”.

3. In 1924 (*Pal. ind.* (n.s.) 9, Mem. 1 : 11) Spath stated "the new genus *Grayiceras* is here proposed . . . (genotype : *G. blanfordi* n.n. = *Simbirskites nepaulensis* Blanford non Gray, in Uhlig [1910, *Pal. ind.* (ser. 15), 4, fasc. 2 : 271], pl. xlvA, fig. 1)". Uhlig stated that this figure represented "the original specimen depicted by Blanford in plate 14, fig. 1, of the "Palaeontology of Niti" [1865], and that it came from the Spiti Shales of an unknown locality.

4. Taking Spath's wording literally, there are thus two genera with the same name *Grayiceras*, introduced independently at different dates and based on different type species. But contrary to Spath's assertions, it is quite possible that the type species of *Grayiceras* Spath, 1924, may be the same as one of the two syntypes of *Grayiceras* Spath, 1923. For Uhlig in refiguring Blanford's type specimen stated that it was "clearly" the same species as *Ammonites nepaulensis* Gray ([1830—32], *Illustrations of Indian Zoology* 1 : pl. 100, figs. 1, 2), and Crick (1903, *Proc. Malac. Soc. Lond.* 5 : 287, 289) in a special paper devoted to Gray's types, had affirmed that Blanford's figure was drawn from Gray's type specimen, and that the type locality was Sulgranees [=Salagrammi?] in Nepal. In that case, *blanfordi* Spath is a junior objective synonym of *nepaulensis* Gray, which then by Spath's action in 1924 becomes the type species of *Grayiceras* Spath, 1923.

5. Uhlig (*loc. cit.*) also accepted Waagen's identification of this species with a form figured by Waagen (1875, *Pal. ind.* (ser. 9) 1 : 136, pl. XXXV, figs. 2, 3) from the Kantcote Sandstone of Cutch, which is of Upper Oxfordian date. In that case the age of the type species of *Grayiceras* is Oxfordian; but Spath considered it to be Tithonian, *i.e.*, many millions of years later.

6. Notwithstanding the irregularities and inadequacies attending the introduction of the genus *Grayiceras*, Spath in 1925 founded a family GRAYICERATIDAE (Ammonites and Aptychi, *Mon. Hunterian Museum Univ. Glasgow* : 145).

7. From paragraphs 2 to 5 above, it is evident that *Grayiceras* Spath is a *nomen dubium*, for the "genotype" of 1924 was not nomenclatorially one of the syntypes of 1923, and the date of existence and identity of both *nepaulensis* Gray and *blanfordi* Spath are uncertain, having been disputed by the chief authorities and never cleared up. Without new material collected under stratigraphical control the names *Grayiceras* and GRAYICERATIDAE cannot be used and must be left aside. It is therefore impossible yet to make any recommendations for intervention by the Commission.

8. In 1924 (*Pal. ind.* (n.s.) 9 : 9) Spath founded a genus *Mayaites*, type species by original designation *Ammonites maya* Sowerby (J. de C.), 1840 (*Trans. geol. Soc. Lond.* (2) 5 : pl. 61, fig. 8), a species indubitably of Oxfordian date.

9. In 1928 (*Pal. ind.* (n.s.) 9 : 165) Spath founded a family MAYAITIDAE.

10. Also in 1928 (*Pal. ind.* (n.s.) 9 : 224) Spath stated : “ *Grayiceras* of the Spiti Shales . . . is now also included in the family Mayaitidae ”, adding, “ I included *Grayiceras* in a separate family Grayiceratidae (1925), but its suture-line is now known and the latter name will have to be replaced by Paraboliceratidae ” [another new family name, presumably based on the Spiti Shales (Tithonian) genus *Paraboliceras* Uhlig, 1910].

11. If Spath’s systematic conclusions (paragraph 10 above) were accepted, the family name MAYAITIDAE 1928, would fall as junior synonym of GRAYICERATIDAE 1925. This result would be highly undesirable, in view of the fact that *Grayiceras* Spath and GRAYICERATIDAE are *nomina dubia* (see paragraph 7 above) and that Spath’s systematic conclusions are therefore liable to change if further information becomes available. The name MAYAITIDAE is open to no such objections and has already been accepted by revisers (*e.g.*, Basse, 1952, *Mém. Soc. géol. France* (n.s.) 30, mém. 65 ; and—as the name for a subfamily—by Basse in Piveteau, *Traité de Paléont.* 2 : 629).

12. Accordingly I ask the International Commission, in the interests of nomenclatorial stability and in order to prevent confusion :—

- (1) to direct under its Plenary Powers that the family-group name MAYAITIDAE Spath, 1928, is not to be rejected in favour of the name GRAYICERATIDAE Spath, 1925, by any worker who may consider that the respective type genera of these taxa should be referred to the same family-group taxon ;
- (2) to place the under-mentioned family-group name on the *Official List of Family Group Names in Zoology* with a note in the terms specified under the Plenary Powers under (1) above : MAYAITIDAE Spath (L.F.), 1928 (type genus : *Mayaites* Spath (L.F.), 1924) ;
- (3) to place the generic name *Mayaites* Spath, 1924 (gender : masculine) (type species by original designation : *Ammonites maya* Sowerby (J. de C.), 1840) on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* ;
- (4) to place the specific name *maya* Sowerby (J. de C.), 1840, as published in the combination *Ammonites maya* (specific name of type species of *Mayaites* Spath, 1924) on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*.

## II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

**2. Registration of the present application :** Upon the receipt of Dr. Arkell's application, the question of the protection of the family-group name *MAYAITIDAE* Spath, 1928 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea) was allotted the Registered No. Z.N.(S.) 884.

**3. Publication of the present application :** The present application was sent to the printer on 7th April 1955 and was published on 7th July in the same year in Part 7 of Volume 11 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Arkell, 1955, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **11** : 229—231).

**4. Issue of Public Notices :** Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 7th July 1955 (a) in Part 7 of Volume 11 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which Dr. Arkell's application was published) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition such Notice was given also to four general zoological serial publications and to three palaeontological serials in Europe and America.

**5. Support received from D. T. Donovan (University of Bristol) :** On 14th November 1955, Dr. D. T. Donovan (*University of Bristol*) addressed a letter to the Office of the Commission in which he commented on recently published applications by Dr. Arkell. His remarks concerning the present case are as follows :—

I support Dr. Arkell's application that the family-group name *MAYAITIDAE* Spath, 1928, should not be rejected in favour of the name *GRAYICERATIDAE* Spath, 1925.

**6. No objection received :** No objection to the action proposed in the present case was received from any source.

### III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

**7. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(56)28 :** On 27th April 1956 a Voting Paper (V.P.(56)28) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the family-group name MAYAITIDAE Spath (L.F.), 1928, as set out in Points (1) to (4) in paragraph 12 on pages 230 to 231 of Volume 11 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*" [i.e. in the paragraph numbered as above in the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

**8. The Prescribed Voting Period :** As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 27th July 1956.

**9. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(56)28 :** At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(56)28 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-four (24) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Holthuis ; Hering ; Esaki ; Dymond ; Prantl ; Hankó ; Bonnet ; Jaczewski ; Bodenheimer ; Lemche ; Key ; Mayr ; Boschma ; do Amaral ; Riley ; Mertens ; Cabrera ; Kühnelt ; Stoll ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Tortonese ; Hemming ; Vokes ; Miller ;



(b) *Negative Votes* :

None ;

(c) *On Leave of Absence, one (1)* :

Bradley (J.C.) ;

(d) *Voting Papers not returned* :

None.

**10. Declaration of Result of Vote :** On 28th July 1956, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(56)28, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 9 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

**11. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present " Opinion " :** On 14th February 1957, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(56)28.

**12. Original References :** The following are the original references for the generic and specific names placed on *Official Lists* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

*maya, Ammonites*, Sowerby (J. de C.), 1840, *Trans. geol. Soc. Lond.* (2) 5 : expl. to pl. 61, fig. 8

*Mayaites Spath* (L.F.), 1924, *Pal. ind.* (n.s.) 9 : 9

13. The following is the original reference for the family-group name placed on the *Official List* of names of taxa belonging to that category :—

MAYAITIDAE Spath (L.F.), 1928, *Pal. ind.* (n.s.) 9 : 165

14. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

15. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Four Hundred and Seventy-One (471) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Fourteenth day of February, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Seven.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

**FRANCIS HEMMING**